

# York can still use Board Watcher pressure

By Chris McMonagle  
Trustee (Markham)  
York County Board of Education

From Board of Education critic and watcher to trustee is an interesting leap. When you are a Board Watcher you are completely flabbergasted by the bumbling way decisions, affecting thousands of students in York County, are made. It is even more bewildering to find yourself a member of the bumbler who stumble and bumble through meeting after meeting.

This term's group of trustees, like those who preceded them, have been more noteworthy for their lack of action than for dynamic leadership.

Who is to blame? I am sure that all of the 20 elected representatives are committed and concerned about our educational system, but like the previous board I watched, we write in agony with a multiple-headed beastie system that we can't saddle.

We each have a steady hand on the rein. Unfortunately, there are many reins, all on different heads of the beast, and we have been riding off bareback in different directions.

A tendency towards change is beginning to emerge. The standing committee structure, given time, will ensure that trustees are at least well informed on one segment of the Board of Education business.



**The guest spot**  
A topical column of opinion by our readers. Submissions should be no more than 800 words, typed preferably.

**Slow to change**  
But change is slow to occur. I have this recurring nightmare that we will have to pull and tug the educational system into the '70s through sheer force.

Why else would we still be debating the educational value of junior kindergartens? The Ministry of education has been allocating funds for a number of years. The Toronto Board of Education has advised that they do not require additional funds where space is available in the system and alterations are not required. Many dedicated young parents have carefully studied the matter and have shared their considered findings with us, requesting that we begin to institute a carefully-planned junior kindergarten program.

Our professional educators advise that this is a political decision. They are neither for nor against them, but I know that unless there is some strong opposition from the interested parents we won't have such programs for a few years — until we are forced into making a decision.

That's how progress has always occurred in our system. However, I am learning.

If you are really enthusiastic about an educational program and would like to see it started in York County, never, but never, advise that it is working somewhere else.

Had the parents who wanted these kindergartens been a little wiser they could have asked for an "innovative play school" or a "community co-operative child development centre." Then if they had added lots of busy and complicated studies, an essentially simple issue would have been suitably confused and clouded. Innovation is the key word to acceptability in York.

**Courage needed**

Do we have the courage to change our direction and once again truly represent our community when we make our decisions? It will not be easy to return to square one and build a system responsive to its citizens.

How do we overcome our fear of making changes at the board level?

Fear is rarely evident at social gatherings when education is the topic of discussion. Common sense is more often than not obvious in the discussion of

questions like "Why don't they . . . in York County?"

We get trapped in what we think we can't do. We must become more like the little boy who threw a rock a great distance. His amazed father said, "Why, you couldn't have thrown it that far!" But the youngster replied, "I didn't know I couldn't."

Changes have been made in our approach to our teaching staff in York County. This happened because the teachers made sure we understood they wanted change.

Please Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer, do more phoning of your local trustee to ensure that we keep our heads above the quicksand of educational theory and keep struggling for some common sense in our system.

Make sure that your questions — "Why don't they . . . in York County?" — are directed at your local trustee. And don't be afraid to be critical.

It was Winston Churchill who said "criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfills the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things."

## REMEMBER



## Region police grant jumps

York Regional Police will receive an increase in their per capita grant from \$1,294,000 to \$2,302,000, William Hodgson, MLA York North, told the annual meeting of York North Progressive Conservative Association at King City last week.

The provincial government recently announced it would be increasing the grants to help municipalities pay for their own police forces, but did not state what the total individual amounts would be.

Treasurer Darcy McKeough, announcing the changes in the budget in the legislature, said they would bring municipalities another \$29 million in grants this year.

In its budget last week, York Regional Council knocked \$500,000 off the police commission's proposed \$7 million-plus expenditure.

Councillor Ray Twinney of Newmarket, a member of the police commission, told The Liberal that, with the provincial grants, he was hoping council would see fit to restore the \$500,000 cut to the police budget.

## More letters

### School bus drivers dedicated in storm

Dear Editor:  
Who would drive a school bus? It takes a certain kind of person to navigate those huge yellow machines, at the same time assuming responsibility for the lives of its temporary inhabitants. To be patient, firm, kind, good humoured and a skillful driver all at the same time is a difficult assignment.

The storm April 3 made it very clear that we should be grateful to these dedicated people. When the call came that the buses would pick up at 1:30 p.m. we breathed a sigh of relief. Our problems would be over then, but the driver would begin the nightmarish task of delivering our children home.

At Joseph A. Gibson Public School in Maple we are fortunate in having excellent bus drivers in charge. Eric Edmansson, Helen Fleury, Allan O'Brien and Arlene Mitchell loaded their buses and started out.

Our thanks goes out to them, because they made sure that everyone got home safely.

Mrs. Mitchell deserves special recognition. Having picked up the children at 1:30 pm, she delivered her last charges at 7:30 pm. For six hours she pacified, amused, supervised and even fed the 24 students on her bus.

Though the parents had long worried hours, the children took everything in

their stride and according to Mrs. Mitchell "The kids were great". So was she!

As principal I would also like to commend all the parents who temporarily assumed responsibility for children whose parents were not home. We appreciated all their assistance in the storm's emergency.

Let's give our support to school bus drivers. Theirs is not an easy task.  
R.K. ROBSON  
Principal  
Joseph A. Gibson Public School

### Clubs need more members

Dear Editor:  
We have three clubs that have very few members.

One is the U.F.O. Club. They need more members. There is another club that just started named the CN Tower Club. It also needs members.

The last one is the Rocket Club, which needs more members, too.

I hope you will publish this for us.

Anyone interested in joining any of these clubs can call me at 884-1620.

JOHN CLARK (11)  
319 Neal Drive,  
Richmond Hill.

## Rowe proposes cut in Land Division bureaucracy

York Regional Council has been, at odds with its land division committee since first appointing it a year ago February.

Last week council agreed to meet the nine-member group in an effort to resolve a few differences.

The proposed meeting resulted from a suggestion by Richmond Hill Councillor Gordon Rowe that the committee be whittled down to three members.

Rowe said the proposed \$65,000 budget cut for the committee — from \$128,300

— could only be met by reducing its membership.

The week before at the regional budget meeting, Rowe said the committee had been slow to process applications and tardy in

attending scheduled meetings.

Mayor Dave Schiller of Richmond Hill said three members was an unworkable number and suggested five as a better

number.

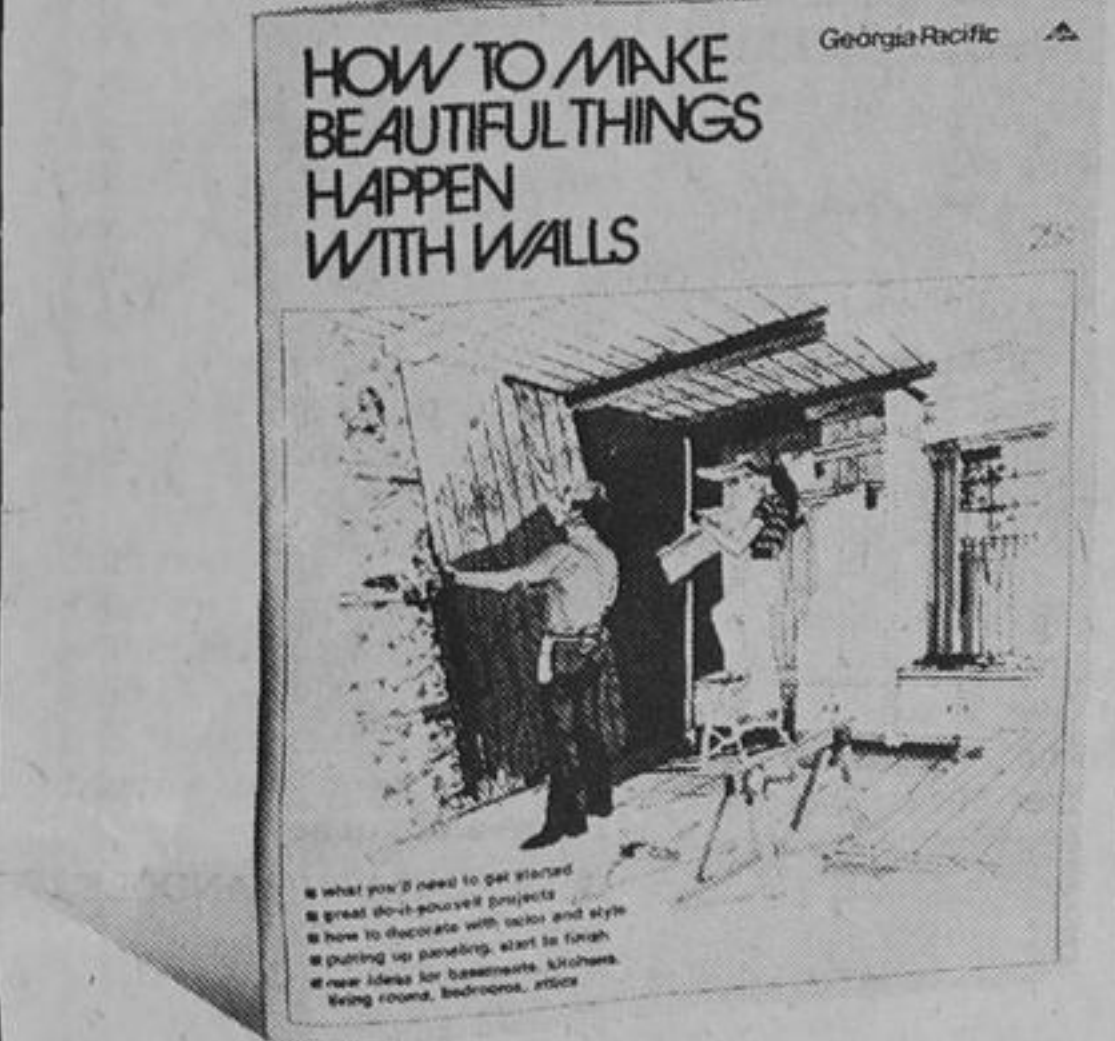
"You can't reduce the budget by just reducing the members," Schiller said.

Councillor David Fraser of Vaughan said "the trouble is the committee is not making

decisions".

It was now taking six to nine months to grant land severances, while in York North it took nine days.

April 24 was set for the meeting.



# Do-it-yourself ideas. 25¢!

Need remodelling ideas? G-P's got all kinds, from building partitions to panelling walls to decorating rooms. It's all in our 32-page fix-up guide. And just 25¢! Only at G-P Registered Dealers.



**Bowden Lumber Ltd.**  
9301 Yonge Street  
Richmond Hill,  
Ontario

# DO YOUR OWN SPRING THING

## Shoppers Drug Mart®

10 Royal Orchard Blvd. Thornhill, Ontario  
889-8171      Expiry Date April 20th, 1975

<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>KLEENEX</b> CANADIANA 100's</p> <p><b>5 for 99¢</b></p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>	<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>Vaseline Intensive</b> <b>Care Beads</b></p> <p>Regular or Herbal 16 oz. <b>99¢ ea.</b></p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>	<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S SIZE</b> <b>ASPIRIN</b></p> <p>24's <b>29¢</b></p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>
<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>TINACTIN</b> <b>SOLUTION</b></p> <p>MSL \$3.19 15 ml. <b>\$1.69</b> SALE</p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>	<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>DIOVOL</b> SUSPENSION OR TABLETS</p> <p>12 oz. 50's <b>\$1.79 ea.</b></p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>	<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>Life Brand Multiple</b> <b>Vitamin Tablets</b></p> <p>100's <b>\$1.49</b></p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>
<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>We carry a complete</b> <b>line of Swimming</b> <b>Pool Chemicals</b></p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>	<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>Life Brand Shampoo</b> <b>&amp; Creme Rinse</b></p> <p>32 oz. <b>\$1.19</b></p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>	<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>Polident Tablets</b></p> <p>48's <b>93¢</b></p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>
<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>TIRE CORD REINFORCED</b> <b>GARDEN HOSE</b></p> <p>50 feet <b>\$5.99</b></p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>	<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>ASSORTED</b> <b>Garden Utensils</b></p> <p><b>4 for \$2.99</b> or 99¢ each</p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>	<p>Coupon</p> <p><b>COPPERTONE</b> <b>LOTION</b></p> <p>MSL \$2.10 115 ml. <b>\$1.49</b> SALE</p> <p>Shoppers Drug Mart <small>We reserve the right to limit quantities</small></p>

**CHARGEX - MASTERCHARGE Above items available at THORNHILL STORE ONLY!!**